

**MINUTES OF THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT**
May 22, 2007 – 2:00 p.m. – W140 House Building

Members Present:

President John L. Valentine, Chair
Speaker Greg J. Curtis, Vice-Chair
Sen. Mike Dmitrich
Rep. Ralph Becker
Rep. David Clark
Rep. Brad King

Members Absent:

Sen. Curtis S. Bramble
Sen. Gene Davis

Staff Present:

Ms. M. Gay Taylor, General Counsel
Ms. Beverlee LeCheminant

Note: A list of others present, copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

President Valentine called the meeting to order at 2:14 p.m.

MOTION: Rep. King moved to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2006 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Annual Performance Review of:

Legislative Auditor General

Mr. John Schaff stated that in the past 12 months his office has released 14 major reports and six less formal reports for a total of 20 reports, which is the most reports his office has ever issued in the 30 years he has been with the office. He indicated that this increase is due in part to the hiring of two additional auditors and also the Audit Subcommittee's direction of reducing the scope so more audits can be completed. Mr. Schaff reviewed two of the audits that were released this year and said that his office has also released a number of reports that are not covered by the media.

Mr. Schaff said that his office appreciates the support of leadership and pledge to continue to do their best in providing accurate and timely information to the Legislature.

Legislative Fiscal Analyst

Mr. John Massey distributed and reviewed a handout of the major activities in his office since the last Subcommittee on Oversight meeting. He indicated that his office has had more personnel changes in the past year than it has ever had. He stated that the deputy director retired in August of 2006 and a senior analyst, Bill Greer, took a position with the Executive Branch which necessitated hiring two new analysts.

Mr. Massey stated that they have hired a fiscal note manager, created a fiscal note checklist and new fiscal note worksheet, and improved their responsiveness to the fiscal notes during the past year and they are going to continue to work on analyst and agency training. He said that some of the reports his office is currently working on include Tourism Accountability and Funding, Funds Consolidation, and Private Health Contractor Rates.

Director, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

Mr. Michael Christensen said that his office's main goal was to serve the legislature better than the year before and he feels they have accomplished that goal. One of the areas he feels the office has improved on is the timeliness in bill drafting and part of that is due to having two attorneys in the tax and the health and human services areas. He also indicated that Gay Taylor and John Fellows have worked hard to get more bill drafting training for the attorneys during the interim and that Joseph Wade has created macros to help the attorneys in their bill drafting.

Mr. Christensen stated that the Bagels and Briefings have been a success. From five to 20 legislators have attended those briefings and have asked that they be continued during the interim, which the office has done. He told the committee that immigration, health care costs and access, energy needs, air quality, and financial institutions will be topics for the Bagels and Briefings during the 2007 interim.

Ms. Taylor reviewed the statute and Legislative Management Committee policy that sets the salary range for the three directors.

MOTION: Speaker Curtis moved to go into a closed session for the purpose of discussing the professional competence of the legislative auditor general, the director of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst's Office, and the director of the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel. The motion passed unanimously.

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MOTION: Speaker Curtis moved to dissolve the closed session and go back into a public meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Speaker Curtis moved to authorize a salary increase for the three directors of eight percent on the 2007 salary base, which would include the 3.5% COLA and would bring all three directors to a position that is equal or greater than their highest paid deputy for fiscal year 2008. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

4. Adjournment

MOTION: Speaker Curtis moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

President Valentine adjourned the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

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